Jail as promised by them on the date and in the reply referred to above as sub-division (e);

(c) whether they will be pleased to inform the House the reforms effected by them in the Jail Administration in view of their replies referred to in (a) and (b) above?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(a) No.

(b) The question of starting a reading room was considered, but since there is a library attached to the Central Jail and the prisoners are making proper use of the same, it is not absolutely necessary to start a reading room at present.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to (b).

CENTRAL JAIL—HUNGER STRIKE IN

106. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether there was recently a hunger strike in the Central Jail, Trichur;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the strike;

(c) the number of prisoners who went on strike and how was the matter ended?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(a) Yes.

(b) Following an alleged assault on a convict by a warder in the Jail, the warder was suspended. The strikers wanted the Superintendent to promise that the warder would not be re-instated. Though the Superintendent said that the matter would be enquired into and disposed of on its merits, they went on a hunger strike.

(c) 11 out of 490; the strike was given up on their own accord.

STAFF SELECTION BOARD—APPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF FRESH CANDIDATES

107. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Staff Selection Board has appointed any applicant for a permanent post and confirmed him

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

there at the first instance when many have been officiating for many years;

(*b*) will Government be pleased to place a list of such appointments, the pay, the department, qualification and community and name?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) The Staff Selection Board had to select in certain cases fresh candidates for permanent posts.

(*b*) The time and labour involved in the collection of this information do not commensurate with the purpose served.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Is it because the number of persons appointed for permanent posts in the first instance is so very numerous that it is difficult to collect necessary information, or is it because they are so very few?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* It is neither. The question relates to the period from 1112 when the Staff Selection Board was constituted up-to-date, and the grades in which these appointments are made are very large. It involves a careful examination of the cases which come under this rule. That is why we say that the time and labour involved for the enquiry will not be commensurate with the results achieved.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* The question is this. Unless there is a statement attached to the question it may be difficult for the Secretary to understand. I can certainly give it in the form of a question. Suppose one man has been recruited in service and he has been acting for a number of times and the vacancy for the particular community to which he belongs takes place. Then a fresh candidate is given the permanent vacancy when, under normal circumstances, the man who has acted for 7 or 8 times ought to have got it. I am asking whether there are cases like that.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* I think it is for the first time that the hon'ble member tells that these questions refer to appointments within a community. Even in that case it referes to the question of seniority. The man may be there for ten months but he may not be the senior hand. When it comes to permanent appointment the man who was first appointed will have to be given the vacancy.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly